

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----037677 180551Z /16

O 180459Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3158
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR, HI IMMEDIATE
CINCPACREPPHIL IMMEDIATE
CG 13TH AF
CHJUSMAG MANILA RP IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANILA 4401

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP, MASS
SUBJECT: BASE DISCUSSION: MARCH 18 PRESENTATION TO GEN.
ESPINO AND AFP STAFF ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT LIST

REF: (A) STATE 67001, (B) STATE 67410, (C) MANILA 4258,
(D) MANILA 4320

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR AND BGEN MAPP PRESENTED MILITARY EQUIPMENT LIST TO ESPINO AND SEVERAL TOP AFP STAFF MEMBERS MARCH 18. ORAL PRESENTATION DREW ON REFS A AND B IN MANNER INDICATED IN REF D. AFP COMMENTS WERE LIMITED TO A) CLARIFYING QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS OF COMPENSATION, FOCUSING IN PARTICULAR ON HOW SSA WORKS AND B) INDICATION THAT INITIAL ESTIMATE OF AFP COSTS FOR PROVIDING SECURITY AT BASES IS \$20 MILLION ANNUALLY, OR \$10 MILLION FOR EACH BASE. ESPINO SAID REPORT WOULD BE MADE TO MARCOS ON LIST AND IMPLIED THAT
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GOP RESPONSE WOULD BE MADE AT MARCH 22 MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESENTATION. AMBASSADOR AND BGEN MAPP PRESENTED EQUIPMENT LIST MARCH 18 TO GEN ESPINO. AFP OFFICERS ON HAND WERE BGEN BOCANEGRA, BGEN MANIPULO AND LTC AQUINO (NOTETAKER). PRESENTATION DREW FROM PARA 3B OF REF A AND PARA 3 OF REF B. FOLLOWING SCENARIO DESCRIBED IN REF D, AMBASSADOR OPENED

BY EMPHASIZING THAT ITEMS WE HAVE IDENTIFIED ARE NOT PRESENTED AS AN OFFER BUT RATHER AS AN INDICATION OF WHAT WE BELIEVE WOULD BE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE. HE STRESSED THAT THE USG WILL LOOK TO THE GOP TO DECIDE WHICH ITEMS IT WISHES TO PROCURE AND HOW IT WISHES TO PROCURE THEM, WHETHER THAT BE THROUGH THE THREE FORMS OF COMPENSATION WE ARE OFFERING (SSA, MAP OR FMS FINANCING) OR STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL PURCHASE. BGEN MAPP THEN PROCEEDED TO PRESENT ORALLY THE LIST USING THE TEXT (MINUS BRACKETED PORTIONS) PROVIDED IN PARA 3 OF REF B. (BGEN MAPP PROVIDED ESPINO WITH WRITTEN TEXT FOLLOWING PRESENTATION.) WHILE THE AMBASSADOR AND BGEN MAPP CAREFULLY AVOIDED TOTALLING UP THE LIST, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE ESTIMATED OVERALL VALUE OF THESE ITEMS WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEED THE COMPENSATION WE ARE OFFERING.

3. AFP REACTION. ESPINO SAID THAT THE EQUIPMENT LIST WOULD BE STUDIED AND A REPORT MADE TO MARCOS PREPARATORY TO THE MARCH 22 MEETING, IMPLYING WE WOULD RECEIVE THE GOP RESPONSE AT THAT TIME. ESPINO ASKED CLARIFYING QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS OF COMPENSATION, SHOWING PARTICULAR INTEREST IN HOW SSA WOULD WORK. THIS WAS EXPLAINED IN GENERAL TERMS BY AMBASSADOR TO APPARENT SATISFACTION OF ESPINO. ESPINO INTRODUCED QUESTION OF AFP PARTICIPATION IN BASE SECURITY OPERATIONS AT CLARK AND SUBIC, NOTING THAT INITIAL ESTIMATES OF ANNUAL AFP COSTS ARE AROUND \$20 MILLION, OR \$10 MILLION FOR EACH BASE. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT THIS SEEMED HIGH, NOTING THAT WE
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WERE THINKING OF SOMETHING AROUND 250-300 MEN AT EACH BASE WITH WHATEVER IS NECESSARY IN TERMS OF JEEPS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. ESPINO SAID THAT THE AFP HAS IN MIND PLACING 1000 RPT 1000 MEN AT EACH BASE. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT A FULL INDICATION OF THE ESTIMATED AFP REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE U.S. COULD COMMENT. ESPINO PROMISED TO PROVIDE THIS ON MARCH 22.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD AWAIT THE FULL DESCRIPTION OF ESTIMATED AFP REQUIREMENTS FOR ITS SECURITY FORCE AT THE BASES BUT WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE BE PREPARED ULTIMATELY TO CONSIDER USING PORTION OF MAP GRANTS WE HELD BACK IN MARCH 16 PRESENTATION TO MARCOS TO COVER AFP SECURITY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS, PRESUMABLY JEEPS AND COMMUNICATIONS HARDWARE. WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THEM THAT SSA COULD SERVE TO COVER PERSONNEL COSTS FOR THE REQUIRED AFP FORCES. WE ASSUME MAP COULD NOT BE USED TO REIMBURSE GOP FOR PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO BASE SECURITY. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA04401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780120-0536
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780352/aaaabrijy.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65a17cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 67001, 78 STATE 67410, 78 MANILA 4258, 78 MANILA 4320
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3283321
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASE DISCUSSION: MARCH 18 PRESENTATION TO GEN. ESPINO AND AFP STAFF ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT LIST
TAGS: MARR, MASS, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65a17cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014